

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 28th June 1902.

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REPORT (PART II)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

FOR THE YEAR 1891

BY THE COMMISSIONER

JOHN W. FOSTER

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1892

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

850. The *Hindoo Patriot* writes strongly of the injustice done to Indians in Natal by the passing of the Bill providing for their return to India unless they agree to conform to certain conditions, and says that the invidious distinction and the most glaring partiality which the Bill evinces are simply appalling.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
17th June 1902.

851. Continuing its remarks on this subject the *Hindoo Patriot* appeals to Lord Curzon to take a strong position and a manful stand, in the matter out of sympathy for the hard lot of the British Indian settlers in Natal. There can be no denying that the colony cannot afford to lose the benefit of Indian labour. Hence, if Lord Curzon sets his face against the emigration to Natal, the result will be that the colonists would be influenced, by selfish considerations alone, to remove all the alleged inequalities and invidious restrictions, and to grant the requisite relief to the Indian settlers by fresh legislation, if necessary.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
18th June 1902.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

852. In its third article on this subject, the *Bengalee* deploras, not the death of the Sub-Inspector or the burning down of the houses of the men concerned in the *Dona-khel* or the utter lawlessness which prevailed for more than twenty-four hours at Nandigram, but the sudden reduction to abject poverty of thousands of affluent peasant cultivators and the intense and widespread misery consequent on it. And this misery has been enhanced by the efforts which are made to vindicate the outraged majesty of the law, by sending the men to *hajat* or to jail, leaving the defenceless women and children of a whole pargana to shift for themselves as they best may. Add to all this, the presence at Nandigram of a police force, burning to avenge what it naturally enough considers as an insult to itself. It was, continues the writer, the unscrupulous rapacity of the deceased Sub-Inspector, Rai Mohan Ghosh, together with his utter incompetence in the hour of trial which brought about his awful fate. It was the cowardice and misconduct of the junior Sub-Inspector, Mahamed Idris, which were immediately responsible for Rai Mohan's terrible death. He had a thousand opportunities of rescuing his superior officer, but he had such a regard for his own safety that he waited at the thana doing nothing. The whole story of the Nandigram riot is a disgraceful story of fraud, of cheating, of the most shameful cowardice and incompetence.

BENGALIAN,
18th June 1902.

The journal proceeds to say that a most curious fact in the case was that the police officers engaged in such an important investigation did not record the statements of a single witness under the provisions of section 161 of the Criminal Procedure Code, although some of the witnesses stated in cross-examination that such statements were, as a matter of fact, recorded. The production of such a record was sure to disclose ugly facts, and so the three police officers examined in the riot case swore emphatically that they never made such a record. The Deputy Magistrate who tried the riot case had examined these very witnesses under section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code, so that he came to the trial with very clear and definite ideas.

853. *Power and Guardian* offers the following suggestion for the consideration of the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, for putting a stop to the growing number of cases in which women are outraged:—When riots or murders break out in any locality, a punitive police is posted there and the entire population is taxed. A similar measure can be adopted in the case of gang-rape with a fair promise of success. Let it, again, be ruled that whenever this particular form of violent crime is reported among any village community the whole of that community should be bound down in adequately heavy sums and be required to pay a special tax for the maintenance of a special police force. Let undertakings be taken from each and every member of the community to be personally liable for any abduction and gang-rape.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
22nd June 1902.

And in six months the crime would be simply wiped off the face of Bengal. So long as something of this kind is not done, it is idle to suppose that mere heavy sentences in case of proved offences would help to put a stop to gang-rape.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

BENGALIAN,
16th June 1902.

854. The *Bengalee* enters its emphatic protest against the way in which these important cases have been decided by the High Court. There is no proper adjudication of

The Rajshahi cases.

the facts of the cases. There is no reference to questions of law involved in them. But the bulk of the judgment is taken up with criticising Mr. Lee's conduct, not only regarding this but also other matters, and even that is done without entering into the merits of the dispute between Mr. Lee and Mr. Ryan. A careful consideration of the facts of the cases and the letters of reference written by Mr. Lee would show that the highest Court of Justice in Bengal has only succeeded in obscuring the real issues which were put forward by the Sessions Judge, and which are the only issues the learned Judges were entitled to discuss and adjudicate upon. And yet, in this judgment, whilst the finding—if indeed it can be called by that name—is so clearly set forth, the reasons upon which it may have been based are allowed to be conspicuous by their absence. It is a matter for regret from more than one point of view. It is unfortunate that the highest tribunal in the Province should have thought proper to record a finding without setting forth the reasons which point to that conclusion.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
21st June 1902.

855. The following further observations on the Rajshahi incidents are offered by the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*:—

The Rajshahi cases.

The just course, and we think also the most politic course, open to the Government, is to send back Mr. Williams to Rajshahi and permit all the officials and non-officials to represent to him what they have got to say. What Rajshahi prays for is a hearing. By the way, the manner in which the matter has been disposed of by the Bengal Government and the High Court has simply staggered the people of the country. That Mr. Roe has been wrong and Mr. Lee right all along the line is, we can guarantee, the popular view. And yet the latter has been humiliated by a transfer, and the former kept at Rajshahi.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
17th June 1902.

856. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* explains that although Mr. Lee committed a mistake from an official point of view by exposing

Mr. Lee, District Judge, Rajshahi.

Mr. Roe, the District Magistrate, he had no help for it. He was within his right to demand an enquiry into the truth or falsity of the charges brought against him. The references meant nothing more than this. If he had not made the references, the High Court would not have found an opportunity of censuring him at all. He wrote the letters of reference from a high and honourable feeling. As Judge of the district he had the power to pass orders upon the petitions submitted to him by the Mussalmans. But he saw that he had been accused of having fostered those very cases. And, therefore, he thought he would not meddle with them at all, but submit them for the consideration of the High Court. "So, it seems that he suffers because he adopted the most honourable course open to him, namely, that of submitting the cases to the High Court without trying them himself."

INDIAN MIRROR,
17th June 1902.

857. The following is taken from the *Indian Mirror*:—

The appointment of Mr. Henderson to the High Court Bench.

The appointment of Mr. Gilbert S. Henderson as a Judge of the Calcutta High Court has been hailed with a loud paean of praise by the press. Mr. Henderson had already officiated as a High Court Judge in Calcutta and also in Allahabad. We were under the impression that some day he would receive a permanent appointment on the Bench of the Allahabad Court. His local appointment will certainly strengthen the local Bench. Whether it will elevate the character of its proceedings and create greater public confidence remains to be seen. It seems that in these days, some new appointments are created for some particular people. Look at Mr. Orange's appointment.

858. The *Hindoo Patriot* expresses its approval of Mr. Henderson's appointment as Judge of the High Court. It has consistently advocated the appointment on local grounds, and congratulates the High Court and the Government on it.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
17th June 1902.

859. The *Indian Mirror* proposes in its leading article and in subsequent issues to deal with the question whether the High Court has maintained for the last 12 years the high prestige it enjoyed before. It ventures to assert that it has lost its former brilliance and cultured strength. "Take up," it says, "any volume of the Calcutta Law Reports of the period, and tell us if the decisions and judgments are in any way distinguished by thoroughness, weight and diction which were found in their predecessors. Now-a-days we notice in them the awkward limp of a legal cripple, the coyness and shyness of a youthful flirt, the thin veneer of a dilettante, and the snappishness of an old crotchety. It is very melancholy for us to think that the highest tribunal of a Province should be so feebly manned. Who is responsible for this state of things? If we know anything of human affairs in these enlightened days, we know this, that the Government is wholly regardless as to who sits on the bench of the highest Court in the land, and how the administration of justice is performed. Some of the recent appointments have been far from what they ought to have been * * * * The Judges have received an increase of salary, and it is pertinent for us to ask if the tax-payers have got better quality for the extra money they have been called upon to pay. It is a notorious fact that these superbly-paid officials are reluctant to understand the principles of law or to apply them to the cases which come before them for adjudication. One feels sad to contemplate such a huge farce solemnly enacted in this country. * * * We would rather live under the martial law or no law than live under this burlesque of legal system. Before we take leave of this subject, we will try to show the quality of the Judges from their reported judgments. We want quality, not quantity."

INDIAN MIRROR,
18th June 1902.

860. The *Indian Mirror* observes that it has become supremely necessary that *vakalatnamas* should, in spite of the opposition of the pleaders of the Calcutta Police Court, be introduced in that Court, and is quite sure the High Court will sanction the new departure in the practice of the Police Court without the least hesitation.

INDIAN MIRROR,
19th June 1902.

861. Commenting on the case lately discussed in the High Court in which the Subdivisional Officer of Serajganj, supported by the District Magistrate of Pabna, insisted upon the appearance in Court of a *pardanashin* lady, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is glad at the decision of the High Court, that if, in the opinion of the Magistrate, there were no circumstances to compel the lady's attendance, he could use his discretion in the matter of allowing her to appear by pleader.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
20th June 1902.

862. Referring to Mr. Vernède's conviction of six men under section 480, Criminal Procedure Code, for making a row outside his Court-room, the *Bengalee* says:—

BENGALÉE,
21st June 1902.

Mr. Vernède, Joint-Magistrate, Chittagong. He is reported to have totally overlooked the provisions of section 481 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and punished the men without taking any evidence or allowing them any opportunity to defend themselves. They were not even asked to make any statement or to offer any explanation. They were literally condemned unheard. Mr. Vernède's name has already been famous as a *zubburdust* officer, and in view of the repeated complaints against him, we think the time has come when the Government should, in the interests of both Mr. Vernède and the people, remove him from the office he now fills and fills with discredit. By his temperament, conduct and action, Mr. Vernède has shown himself to be utterly incapable of holding any judicial appointment, and the reputation of Sir John Woodburn's Government will assuredly suffer if it any longer allows Mr. Vernède to play fantastic tricks in the way he has been doing.

863. Referring to the case in which Mr. Muhammad Yusuf, Additional Judge of Barisal, sentenced one Sikdar to be hanged under sections 302 and 364, and the acquittal of the prisoner by Mr. Platel, on retrial, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks:—

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
21st June 1902.

What a commentary this action of Mr. Platel is on the criminal administration! Mr. Yusuf not only convicted Misir Sikdar of murder, but evidently

held that nothing short of capital punishment would meet the requirements of justice. And with the same evidence before him, Mr. Platel came altogether to a contrary conclusion, viz., that the man was innocent; and accordingly the prisoner was acquitted. Who can, after this, deny the fact that the so-called criminal justice is a myth, and that its quality entirely depends on the mental frame of the trying judicial officer? Now that the man has been acquitted, may we enquire who is to pay for the unnecessary trouble, hardship and expense to which he has been put and the mental worry that he has suffered from?

(d)—Education.

INDIAN MIRROR,
22nd June 1902.

864. The *Indian Mirror* extends its hearty sympathy to the principal object of the Muhammadan Educational Association, viz., the imparting of true Muhammadan education to the poorer Muhammadans, and thinks that for an institution such as it is, no better leader than Mr. Justice Amir Ali could be found.

(e)—Local Self-Government and municipal administration.

BENGALIEE,
18th June 1902.

865. The *Bengalee* refers to the successful case brought by Nagendra Nath Bose and others against the Corporation of Calcutta for seizing their goods for rate-bills for which they were not liable, and calls for the punishment of the officer or officers of the Warrant Department who were responsible for the needless harassment caused to the rate-payers and the pecuniary loss which the Corporation is made to suffer owing to the negligence of its employés. It hopes the case will open the eyes of the higher officials of the Department to the necessity of greater vigilance and of more watchful attention over the proceedings of their subordinates and bring about a change in the traditions of the Department, and teach the officials of the Department to temper the administration of a coercive law with caution and with due regard to public convenience.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
18th June 1902.

866. The *Hindoo Patriot* calls attention to the urgent necessity of driving thoroughfares through spaces already opened up under the plague regulations and of thus making the development of plague spots in such localities an impossibility. It also advocates the opening up of other localities which have been pronounced unhealthy.

BENGALIEE,
19th June 1902.

867. Referring to the danger from overhead electric wires in Calcutta, the *Bengalee* is not satisfied that a pamphlet is shortly to issue on the best method of treating people who get an electric shock. The very fact that the issue of such a pamphlet is necessary, suggests that the present arrangement is unsatisfactory and dangerous. The wires therefore should be placed under ground. There is no middle course. As to the action of the Electric Supply Corporation which in the recent fatality delayed in shutting off the current as soon as the breakage occurred, the *Bengalee* says:—

Such neglect is indeed culpable and should not be lightly passed over. The Electric Supply Corporation may be an influential and wealthy body, but that consideration should not weigh with the Government in bringing the Corporation to book for this gross dereliction of duty which cost an Indian his life. The monsoon is fast approaching, and since electric plants get out of order with the seasonal disturbances, it would be the height of folly, if the authorities slept over the matter any longer.

INDIAN MIRROR,
20th June 1902.

868. The *Indian Mirror* is of opinion that the subject of the Tramways overhead electric wire traction in Calcutta must engage the serious attention not only of the residents of Calcutta, but also of all who have business or any other relations with the metropolitan city. The system is fraught with danger, and this has been emphasised by the recent loss of life, but still the journal learns that the matter is going to be hushed up, powerful European commercial interests being at stake. Referring to the memorandum of instructions issued by the Calcutta police for the guidance of the public in cases of such accidents, the *Mirror* says that the memorandum is not so simple as it looks, as, for instance, who is to try the artificial respiration recommended. It will be at least necessary to initiate every black and white policeman into the mysteries of that remedy.

869. The *Bengalee* returns to the subject of the attempt to secure Mr. Roberts's retention as District Engineer of Purnea up to December, when, under the orders of the Lieutenant-Governor, he should retire on the 1st July next. It publishes the letter of a correspondent from Purnea, who, among other things, says that what Mr. Roberts actually wants is not an extension for six months more, though ostensibly so, but an extension for three or four years more just to entitle him to a half pension. His only hope in gaining extension each time, for however small a period it may be, is anyhow to stay on till March next year, when Sir John Woodburn retires from Belvedere and a new Lieutenant Governor comes in his place. If anyhow he manages to stick on till then, he will apparently have little difficulty in getting his object fulfilled.

BENGALÉE,
22nd June 1902.

870. The people of Chapra are afraid, says the *Bengalee*, that a blow is sought to be inflicted on Local Self-Government by the proposed amalgamation of the Local Board of Saran with the District Board. It appeals to the Lieutenant-Governor to make a thorough enquiry before he sanctions the proposal.

BENGALÉE,
22nd June 1902.

(h)—*Railways and Communications, including canals and irrigation.*

871. *Power and Guardian* complains that the third class compartments on the Bengal and North-Western Railway are generally overcrowded, and that tickets are issued to intending passengers without any regard to this fact, with the result that some are obliged to squeeze themselves in, while others are left behind. It mentions that a man and his wife bought tickets for a short journey on this line, and when the train by which they were to travel arrived, the man shoved his wife into a compartment already overcrowded, but when he tried to follow her, he was pushed out. Before he had time to take out his wife the train moved away, and it is alleged that although this happened some weeks ago he has found no trace of his wife as yet.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
15th June 1902.

(h)—*General.*

872. Under this heading, the *Moslem Chronicle* relates a story of Mr. Roe, the Magistrate of Rajshahi, examining witnesses in Bengali and punishing those who were unable to understand his questions.

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
14th June 1902.

873. Continuing its observations on the superiority of the system of appointment to the public service by nomination over that of competition, the *Moslem Chronicle* remarks that an appointment under the latter system in this country gives the holder the idea that he is by educational acquirement more fitted than the other races of India for such service. The appointment is not a gift with him, and as such does not tend to create that feeling of subordination or the sense of citizenship which is at once the source and foundation of deep and abiding loyalty.

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
14th June 1902.

874. The *Moslem Chronicle* is extremely disappointed to find that, out of eleven appointments made to the Provincial Civil Service, only one is a Muhammadan.

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
14th June 1902.

It is also greatly disappointed to note that the three candidates selected by the Lieutenant-Governor to be Probationary Sub-Deputy Collectors are all Hindus.

"We can scarcely recollect," it continues, "that under any previous three Lieutenant-Governors, the number of appointments given to the Mussulmans, even after the introduction of the competition and partial nomination system, was ever so disproportionately low as that in the last list. We can assure His Honour that the Muhammadan community would feel this as utterly despairing, and that there has not been, to us, at all a satisfactory apportionment by nomination, which power, we understand, was originally reserved to redress inequality. The last list cannot but be regarded as a most sad announcement."

875. *Power and Guardian* congratulates the Dumraon State on the happy ending of a white regime. Although it neither knows nor believes anything against Mr. Fox, it is glad of the changes made, because during the late Maharaja's lifetime,

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
15th June 1902.

it was a principle with him, not to employ Europeans in any capacity, when in every other Bihar State highly-paid Europeans fattened on their slender resources.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
19th June 1902.

876. The resignation of Mr. Fox, Manager of the Dumraon Raj, and his European Assistants, has come as a surprise to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*.

Dumraon affairs.

It adds :—

There is scarcely a private estate in Bihar, big or small, which is not under European management. Indeed, it would seem as if this Province was created for the sole benefit of a number of European adventurers and place-hunters. We all know to what a pass have some of these estates been reduced by the irresponsible management of the Europeans, but as the latter are either the relations or *protéges* of some high officials in power, they are allowed to do whatever they like in spite of the protests of the press against their acts.

INDIAN MIRROR,
15th June 1902.

877. The *Indian Mirror*, in view of the gradual removal of the prejudices

against sea voyages, enquires why preference should be given to western countries only and why eastern countries should escape attention. It advocates such foreign countries as Japan, China and Siam and even Ceylon, and expresses the view that "we have now got to face the sea voyage question, not in its single aspect of caste rules or prejudices, but in the larger and far more important light of the federation of the East."

878. Discussing the causes of the present helplessness of the Indian peasantry and the best means of affording them assistance, *Power and Guardian* says:—

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
15th June 1902.

We want only a dozen honest workers prepared to sacrifice all their comforts to the cause of their mother-country, going barefooted from village to village, from hamlet to hamlet, impressing upon the minds of the unsophisticated villagers the real and tangible cause of their present helplessness, lurking undetected in their own apathy. Lives must be lost, great sacrifices made, in this up-hill work, when the whole country has been overflowed by the brummagem tinsel. Ignorance must gradually be dispelled to rouse the people to action. Therein lies the salvation of the country and nowhere else.

BENGALER,
22nd June 1902.

879. When, says the *Bengalee*, the peasant sees that the application of scientific methods increases the outturn of crops, he will not require much persuasion to see the error of his ways. It therefore cordially approves of the scheme which has been drawn up by Mr. Sly, Director of Land Records and Agriculture in the Central Provinces, for popularizing improved methods of cultivation in those Provinces, and considers it is a move in the right direction, the result of which will be awaited with interest.

KAYASTHA MESSENGER,
16th June 1902.

880. The *Kayastha Messenger* advocates that by way of marking the Coronation, the Government should permanently or even temporarily suspend the salt-tax, separate the Judicial and Executive functions and abrogate the Arms Act. As for the duties of the people the suggestion is made that there should be universal rejoicings, and if a permanent memorial is preferred, let it take the form which the Collector of Coimbatore has suggested, viz., the planting of trees.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
17th June 1902.

881. The *Indian Empire* makes the following remarks on the granting of privileges on the occasion of the King's Coronation :—

We ask for no new rights, we ask for no new privileges. Let us continue to possess the rights and privileges already conferred, and let these blessings be real and not mere forms without life in them.

Furthermore, we pray that Emperor Edward may repeat the pledges given by his august mother that "our subjects of whatever race or creed be freely and impartially admitted to offices in our service, the duties of which they may be qualified by their education, ability and integrity, duly to discharge." Let not this remain any longer an empty promise.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
16th June 1902.

882. Reviewing the condition of natives in the public service, the *Hindoo Patriot* is gratified to notice that a liberal attempt has been made by the present sympathetic and liberal-minded ruler of Bengal to act up to

Employment of natives in the public service.

some of the recommendations of the Public Service Commission by giving a few high appointments to natives in the course of a year and half. But much remains to be done in that direction. It appeals to the Lieutenant-Governor and the Chief Secretary, whose liberal sympathies for native aspirations are well known, to do full justice to all the recommendations of the Public Service Commission and the principles enunciated in the Act of 1833 and the Royal Proclamation of 1858.

883. The following appears in the *Hindoo Patriot*:—

The Judicial and Executive
authorities in Rajshahi.

We understand that the Commissioner of the Bhagalpur Division, Mr. Williams, who was deputed by Government to enquire into the scandals connected with the differences between the judicial and executive authorities of Rajshahi has submitted his report. Rumour runs that that the report is in favour of the judicial authority represented by the Sessions Judge, Mr. Lee.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
16th June 1902.

It is much to be regretted that the High Court in its lengthy judgment in *Muharram* cases, while condemning Mr. Lee, has not spoken a word in respect of the alleged highhanded proceedings of Mr. Roe. Such a sad want of discrimination on the part of the highest court of the land may tend to shake public confidence in respect of the infallibility of that tribunal. Public feeling has found its vent in all the leading public prints against Mr. Roe for his unholy alliance with Mr. Ryan in opposition to Mr. Lee, and for his other acts of *zubberdustism*. It is high time that the Government should interfere and take necessary steps to put a stop to all these unworthy fights and restore peace and order in their place.

884. The *Indian Empire* comments on three cases of assaults by Europeans on natives—one from Madhupur, where a railway official shot his punka-coolie under a mistaken notion that he was a burglar; the second from Dacca,* where a railway coolie while in the midst of his work was kicked by a railway official and died on the spot, and the third from Dongargarh, where a railway guard struck a telegraph operator.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
17th June 1902.

885. Commenting on the termination of the Jalpaiguri ear-pulling case and the propensity of Europeans to use violence towards natives, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks:—In other countries, violence is met by violence, and therefore it cannot flourish. But in India violence by Europeans is positively, though indirectly, encouraged by the Government. In other countries, a blow inflicted is likely to be followed by a blow in return, but in India, an Indian is not permitted to return a blow inflicted by a European. Of course, there is nothing in the law of the land to prevent a native from returning the blow of a European, but practically it is not safe for an Indian to show spirit, when a European is the offender.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
17th June 1902.

886. When, writes the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, Mr. Caine proposed the reduction of the British army in India by 25,000 men to relieve the burden of this country, he was called an enthusiast, and even such a shrewd statesman as Lord Curzon declared India could not afford to reduce a single British regiment. Yet, as a matter of fact, the British army in India is at the present moment 12,000 short of its normal strength, and this not on account of troops being sent to South Africa (these have long since returned), but on account of invaliding and the absence of fresh drafts.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
17th June 1902.

The journal adds:—Thus, if the normal strength of the British army in India be 70,000, this country can very well be governed with only 58,000. Why is, then, India made to bear the cost of the entire 70,000? It is because India is quite helpless and there is none in the Ministry to speak a word in her behalf. And while India is being made to bear the cost of 70,000 soldiers, while there are only 58,000 in the country, another unparalleled wrong has been done to the people of this hapless country by fastening on them a permanent burden of £786,000 a year, in order to meet the additional military expense required for increasing the pay of the British soldier. The scandalous character of this wrong we hope to point out in a future issue.

* This appears to be a mistake for Jalpaiguri.

BENGALIEE,
19th June 1902.

887. The *Bengalee* is bound to say that, regarded from an Indian point of view, the decision that when Indian troops are employed out of India, as they have often been in the past, the charges on account of such troops are to be divided between this country and England in a proportion to be determined according to the geographical position of the region in which the troops may be employed, and in cases of dispute between the Governments of England and India, the questions in dispute are to be referred for final decision to a tribunal of arbitration, is unsatisfactory in either case. Broadly speaking, it may be boldly asserted that in almost every case of employment of Indian troops out of India, it will be found that they have been so employed for Imperial rather than Indian purposes. Even when they have been employed in a country so close to India as Afghanistan, considerations of Imperial policy can scarcely be said to have been wholly absent from the minds of the authorities, to say nothing of their employment in Egypt or China.

BENGALIEE,
22nd June 1902.

888. The same paper publishes the following:—
The proposed tribunal of arbitration. Lord Alverstone, in whom one can with difficulty recognize the Sir Richard Webster of the olden days, and who holds the great office of Lord Chief Justice of England, has, it is stated, been appointed arbitrator for the settlement of disputes between the Governments of England and India in connection with the geographical apportionment of the army charges of this country. Lord Alverstone will be an excellent representative of England, but who is to represent India? The Indian representative must be an exceptionally strong man to be able to hold his ground against such a formidable colleague.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
18th June 1902.

889. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* reverts to the grievances of the employés of the Kidderpore Docks, and on this occasion complains that tally clerks and others are very irregularly booked for work. Some are booked throughout the week, while others are not booked at all, and some are posted to duties which enable them to draw overtime allowances, whereas others are less fortunate.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
19th June 1902.

890. With reference to the proposal lately discussed in England that Government should subsidise newspapers in India which will justify men and measures condemned by other newspapers, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is quite willing to undertake the task without any remuneration, if the Government will condescend to supply the newspaper with arguments why official measures, &c., should not be condemned. It will then be ready to support it. As a matter of fact, the *Patrika* holds that there is no need for subsidised State newspapers in this country. There are dozens of Anglo-Indian journals who are ready to pounce upon the Indian newspaper which commits any mistake in its criticism of Government measures or officials.

BIHAR HERALD,
19th June 1902.

891. The *Bihar Herald* regards as an untoward feature of the present day, the dislike evinced in many quarters for the intellectually superior classes in India. This, it says, is noticeable in the distribution of Government patronage. It argues that there cannot be a more erroneous notion than what prevails, that men of superior intellect are, as a class, more dangerous.

A man of high intellect is *ipso facto* not a dangerous man. Intellect is but so much strength—so much capacity for good or evil, and it depends upon the treatment which it receives whether it is ultimately turned to good or evil.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
19th June 1902.

892. The *Hindoo Patriot* holds that what is needed for the improvement of the condition of Indians is not the training of Brahmins and Kayasthas in industries which are not congenial to them, but the education in new and improved methods of the class of workers who are by heredity engaged in such work. That the Indian is not slow to adopt new ideas if he is shewn the utility of them and if they are at all within his means, is amply illustrated by the almost wholesale adoption of Thompson's sugar mills which is a purely European invention. The new handloom and fly shuttle which have been shown to be

such a simple labour-saving apparatus should be placed within the reach of the weaver and he would readily accept them. Teaching boys of the higher castes the trades which they never adopted, and perhaps never will adopt as a profession, is useless in a country like India. What is essentially wanted is a real love for country-made things which often are more artistic and original in design than vulgar machine-made goods.

893. The *Indian Mirror* says that the carters of Calcutta and the neighbourhood have made out a very good case in a petition they have just submitted to the Commissioner of Police, through one Mr. Cox of Howrah, who appears to be an owner of carts or controller of cart-labour himself. The allegations put forward in this petition against the police and the agents of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals are equally serious and definite, and call for a searching enquiry. The *Mirror* trusts the police and the Society will not burke the matter.

INDIAN MIRROR,
20th June 1902.

894. The *Bengalee* regards the Viceroy as a great friend of indigenous arts; possessing a perfect abhorrence for that taste under whose influence the nobility and gentry of this country spend fortunes in purchasing the third rate products of European art, while the rare skill of their own countrymen finds no encouragement. If the Delhi Exhibition brings about a change in this direction, it will not have been held in vain. Instruction is imparted by precept as well as by example. An expression of the Viceroy's opinion would go a great way; but His Excellency's example in the matter of furnishing Government House and other official residences throughout the country with the products of Indian art would be still more impressive. The *Bengalee* can only hope that the Delhi Durbar will not be a huge *tamasha*, but that it will be an abiding landmark in the industrial and the political history of the country to which people in the after-ages, will point with gratitude and pride.

BENGALIE,
20th June 1902.

895. The monster meeting in Bombay mainly consisting of lascars, who met together for the purpose of passing resolutions in consequence of the impending departure to England of Khan Bahadur Darasha R. Chichgurb, who has been summoned to give evidence by a Parliamentary Committee before whom the lascar question will be discussed, was, says the *Indian Mirror*, a sign of the times, full of hope and promise to those who know how to see below the surface of things and events. "The dumb have begun to speak, the halt and the lame to walk, the worm so long trodden under foot has at last begun to turn. The manner in which they pleaded for themselves makes it only too evident that they have learnt to look about themselves and awake to a full consciousness of their rights and liberties. It has so long been the custom to hustle the lascar out of the way for the benefit of the British and colonial sailor, and thrust him into a dark corner. But he is content no longer to take a back seat in life, and only look on, whilst others go in for their innings and make a show."

INDIAN MIRROR,
20th June 1902.

896. The following paragraph is taken from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*:—
The *Civil and Military Gazette* quietly reports in a corner of its columns that "a punkha-coolie has succumbed to injuries inflicted on him by a private soldier at Rawalpindi on the night of the 9th instant." The soldier will no doubt be put on his trial, and it will be ultimately found that the poor man—not the deceased coolie but the soldier—has turned mad, and consequently he will be sent home at the expense of the Indian tax-payers and treated at a lunatic asylum in England at the cost of the same tax-payers. These incidents are getting so frequent that they do not now create that excitement which they once did. But they should now cease, considering that electric fans have become possible and have come into general use. Indeed, His Excellency the Viceroy held out that hope in one of his speeches.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
21st June 1902.

III.—LEGISLATION.

897. Whatever might have been thought of the privilege of interpellation at the time it was conferred, it has now, says the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, been reduced to a farce and representative members are given no opportunity

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
19th June 1902.

Interpellations in Council and
debates.

of asking questions except on the two occasions, within a fortnight, when the budget statement is presented and discussed. The *Patrika* thinks that the time has come when the privilege of electing members might also be withdrawn, for this will at least keep them from internecine quarrels which invariably follow Council election.

BENGALKE,
22nd June 1902.

898. The *Bengalee* referring to the resolution adopted at the Provincial Conference held in Coconada on the subject of the necessity of amending the Religious Endowments Act of 1863, asks:—

How long will the Government of India continue to lend a deaf ear to the earnest wishes of the people so repeatedly and emphatically declared?

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

BENGALKE,
16th June 1902.

899. Adverting to a letter in the *Civil and Military Gazette*, on the helpless condition of Europeans who elect to take service in Native States, the *Bengalee* holds that in the majority of cases, it is rather the ruler of the State than the European official, who is the injured party. The journal finds it difficult to believe that when any cases of hardship do occur the Political Officers take no notice of them. They are always on the lookout for excuses for intervention. As no European can obtain service in a Native State against the wishes of the Political Officer attached to the State, the *Bengalee* regards him as a *protege* of the Resident or Agent, as the case may be, who may be always depended upon to secure justice to the European employés in all cases.

BENGALKE,
18th June 1902.

900. The *Bengalee* publishes two circulars promulgated by the Gaekwar of Baroda urging his officers to desist from interfering with the liberty of the people and to take prompt steps for the removal of grievances ventilated in the newspapers.

It adds:—

The circulars quoted above afford gratifying evidence of the liberal and progressive spirit of the Baroda administration under the present Gaekwar. Indeed in this respect Baroda presents a marked contrast to British India. Here the officials are, with a few honourable exceptions, nothing if not meddlesome, and their attitude towards the Indian press is too notorious. We are confident that His Highness the Gaekwar does not rest content with promulgating liberal circulars, but also insists upon his instructions being loyally carried out.

BENGALKE,
20th June 1902.

901. The *Bengalee* is sure that the Travancore Durbar will without a moment's hesitation reject the proposal of Major Thomson, the Durbar Physician, to appoint a European to the charge of the General Hospital maintained by the State. Such a proposal cannot be defended on any ground whatever. The Durbar is also recommended to give that officious medico a plain hint that it ill becomes his position as the servant of a Native State to recommend the ostracism of the children of the soil from a high appointment for which their fitness has already been proved by the unbroken experience of many years.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

INDIAN MIRROR,
22nd June 1902.

902. The following comments on the Press communique issued from Simla regarding the monsoon, are taken from the *Indian Mirror*:—

Weather forecast.
Could not this information be a little less vague and a little more frank? Are we to take it, that Government has reconsidered its decision to cease publishing meteorological forecasts, and that Mr. Eliot's Department has been given yet one more chance to be weather-wise? And why should a weather-forecast be issued "confidentially" to Local Governments, especially when it "contains nothing which need alarm the public?" And the crass absurdity of this precious communique is heightened, when the public are assured "on the highest authority," that "there is at present no reason to anticipate a failure

of the rains or serious scarcity in India." And who is this highest authority? Mr. Eliot again, or Lord Curzon, or the Secretary of State, who stands in the "holy of holies" of the weather-god? Highest authority indeed! Lord Curzon had better pay personal attention to the language of these official Press communiques, sent to a few semi-official Anglo-Indian journals.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,

The 28th June 1902.

H. B. ST. LEGER,

Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.

